

## Kerry Cronin

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**From:** Gay Weiss <GWeiss@minlib.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 16, 2012 4:24 PM  
**To:** Kerry Cronin  
**Subject:** Heads up...possible book challenge

**Importance:** High

Dear Kerry,

A call from a Brookline patron was forwarded to me at reference from the circulation staff. The call was put through by a Brookline librarian (at least I think so) The patron had out one of our books HEAVENS TO BETSY! by Charles Earle Funk. The woman (Martha Bullock thought the was inappropriate for our collection in circulation, as it explains English language terms such as "Nigger in the woodpile" and "To jump Jim Crow." She thought it should be in the Historical Reference Collection.

I originally thought it was about a juvenile book called "Heavens to Betsy" so it took a while to figure out where I should refer this one. I told her that in my opinion someone might want years hence to know what these expressions meant and to be able to check out the book. I told her I thought we had a procedure for reconsideration of library materials and that she could e-mail you with her concerns. In addition, she questioned your e-mail address being "@minlib.net" (she thought that .net meant profit-making and that none of the libraries in Minuteman made a profit.) I then offered your other address: [kcronin@concordma.gov](mailto:kcronin@concordma.gov)

She has my name, and she also claimed that the Brookline Librarian agreed that it should be put in Historical Reference.

Please let me know if you have questions about our interaction. Thanks.

Gay Weiss

## Kerry Cronin

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**From:** Kerry Cronin  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 29, 2012 5:38 PM  
**To:** 'marthasbullock@gmail.com'  
**Subject:** Book Relocation Request

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Dear Ms. Bullock,

Thank you for your letter dated, May 16, 2012. One of our reference librarians, who is responsible for collection development in the area of etymology, and I reviewed your request to have the book Heavens to Betsy! & Other Curious Sayings by Charles Earle Funk relocated from the Concord Free Public Library's circulating collection to reference. After careful review, we concluded that due to its browsing quality it is best suited to remain shelved with the circulating collection. By design this book is geared toward readers who are curious about phrase origins and enjoy reading historical, literary, or other snippets about language history, which can be best accomplished by the ability to borrow the book and enjoy it at leisure. Heavens to Betsy! & Other Curious Sayings has circulated 10 times, with several renewals and recent circulations, which confirms that there is an interest in having the ability to check out material that examines the historical context of phrases. I shared your request with the Library Committee at their meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup> where there was unanimous agreement that the book should remain in the circulating collection.

Please contact me again at 978-318-3377, if you have any follow-up questions or would like to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

Kerry E. Cronin, Director  
Concord Free Public Library  
129 Main Street  
Concord, MA 01742  
978-318-3377